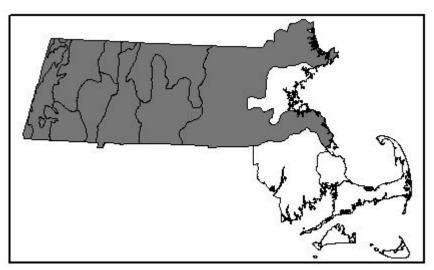
NORTHERN HARDWOODS - HEMLOCK - WHITE PINE FOREST **Community Name:**

Community Code: CT1C000000

SRANK: S5



Concept:

Closed canopy forest dominated by a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, with sparse shrub and herbaceous layers.

Environmental Setting:

Widespread in dry to mesic, moderately acidic conditions with moderate levels of nutrients. North facing slopes and ravines, and northern areas.

Vegetation Description: The community type ranges from Hemlock in pure stands to a deciduous forest with scattered hemlocks. There are variable combinations of hemlock (Tsuga canadensis), sugar maple (Acer saccharum), white ash (Fraxinus americana), yellow birch (Betula alleghaniensis), black cherry (Prunus serotina), and red oak (Quercus rubra), and white pine (Pinus strobus). Beech (Fagus grandifolia) occur on southeast facing slopes. There are often scattered paper birch (Betula papyrifera), aspen (Populus tremuloides), and red maple (Acer rubrum). The shrub layer is usually open, but, often containing scattered clumps of hobblebush (Viburnum lantanoides), red-berried elderberry (Sambucus racemosa ssp. pubens), flyhonevsuckle (Lonicera canadensis), and striped maple (Acer pensylvanicum). The herbaceous layer is sparse, but fairly diverse, with intermediate woodfern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides), clubmosses (Lycopodium spp.), Canada mayflower (Maianthemum canadense), white wood aster (Aster divaricatus), and wild sarsaparilla (Aralia nudicaulis). Occasional spring herbaceous species include painted trillium (Trillium undulatum), early yellow violet (Viola rotundifolia), broad-leaved spring beauty (Claytonia caroliniana), and trout-lily (Erythronium americanum).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: Many animal species use parts of this type of forest, but geographical variation, structure, size, and local conditions will affect which actual species are present. Many species of neo-tropical migrant songbirds nest in large numbers in larger occurrences, including a variety of warblers. Blackburnian warblers (Dendroica fusca) are particularly closely associated with hemlock stands. Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis), Barred Owl (Strix varia), and Pileated Woodpeckers (Dryocopus pileatus) are also to be expected. Mammals include red squirrels (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus), gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis), chipmunks (Tamias striatus), redbacked vole (Clethrionomys gapperi), short-tailed shrew (Blarina brevicauda), masked and smoky shrews (Sorex cinereus and S. fumeus), and white-footed mouse (Peromyscus leucopus). At elevation, deer mouse (P. maniculatus) and woodland jumping mouse (Napaeozapus insignis) also occur in the forest type. Amphibians include redbacked salamanders (Plethodon cinereus) and wood frogs (Rana sylvatica); and expected reptiles include redbelly snakes (Storeria o. occipitomaculata).

Associated Rare Plants:

SOLIDAGO GLUTINOSA SSP RANDII RAND'S GOLDENROD E

Associated Rare Animals:

SOREX PALUSTRIS WATER SHREW SC

Examples with Mohawk Trail S.F., Charlemont; Jug End WMA, Egremont; Holyoke

Public Access: Range State Park, Amherst; Carlisle State Forest, Carlisle; Mt. Toby, Sunderland.

Threats: Exotics do well in the community. 1999- Hemlock hosts the non-native Wooly Adelgid, which usually

kills a hemlock tree after it is fully infested.

Management Needs: Exotic control.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Acer saccharum - Betula alleghaniensis - (Fagus grandifolia) Forest Alliance -- Acer saccharum - Betula

alleghaniensis - Fagus grandifolia /Viburnum lantanoides Forest [CEGL006252]; Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Forest Alliance --Tsuga canadensis - Fagus grandifolia Forest [CEGL006088]; and

Tsuga canadensis - Betula alleghaniensis Lower New England, Northern Piedmont Forest

[CEGL006109]; Pinus strobus - Tsuga canadensis Forest Alliance -- Pinus strobus - Tsuga canadensis

Lower New England, Northern Piedmont Forest [CEGL006328].

MA (old name): Part of: CNE MESIC CONIFER [Transition] FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK/TILL and CNE DRY

TRANSITIONAL FOREST ON SANDY / GRAVELLY SOILS [CT2E1B0000].

ME: Mixed hardwood - conifer forest; Hemlock slope community.

NH: Part of: Hemlock - beech -oak- pine forest; AND Semi - rich mesic sugar maple - beech forest; Includes:

Hemlock forest; 1994 - Beech forest, Beech - Birch - Maple forest, and Semi - rich Mesic Forest.

VT: Mesic northern Hardwood forest [Beech - Birch - Maple forest] AND White Pine - Northern Hardwood

forest; Part of Hemlock forest.

NY: Hemlock - northern hardwood forest AND Pine - northern hardwood forest.

CT: Acer saccharum - Fagus grandifolia - Betula alleghaniensis forests -- Acer saccharum - Fagus

grandifolia/ Viburnum alnifolia community AND Acer saccharum - Fagus grandifolia/ Dryopteris intermedia community AND Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana - Tilia americana forests - Acer saccharum Fraxinus/ Asarum canadensis community AND Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana/ Osmunda claytoniana community AND Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana/ Dryopteris

noveboracensis community; AND part of Tsuga canadensis Forests.

RI: Hemlock - Hardwood Forest.

Weatherbee: Mesic Northern Hardwood Forest Community.

Author: P. Swain **Date:** 8/27/99